

Minutes for the 2008 conference committee meeting held on 11/15/07.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 by Shea Lemar.

2008 Conference

We talked about locations for AGIC 2008. The hotel working group had reviewed hotels around the state (focusing, as we asked them to, in Southern Arizona) and provided the committee with a summary spreadsheet which showed their findings. Glen reviewed the spreadsheet for us and then we each discussed our opinions and voted. The committee voted that they wanted to hold the 2008 conference at Loews Ventana Resort, assuming budget needs can be met. Glen, Bill and Seth will look closer at the dates available (due to a mistake on the spreadsheet) and the budget specifics. If the costs can meet our budgetary needs and we can have the conference on a Wednesday-Friday, then we will book Loews. Otherwise, we will go to our second choice which is back to the Prescott Resort.

Reasons for choosing Loews Ventana were as follows:

- The committee feels that it is time to move the conference to the southern part of the state. The conference used to move around the state and we want to bring it back to the southern area to make it more accessible to people in that area.
- Many hotels in southern Arizona were not able to accommodate our dates, the per diem costs, or our size needs. The four hotels in the area that were available were Loews Ventana, Double Tree Reid Park, Hotel Arizona and Holiday Inn Palo Verde/Airport. Due to massive construction in the area and bad experiences with conferences at Hotel Arizona, it was not considered suitable. Due to the fact that

- remodeling is going on and might not be finished by the time of our conference, Double Tree was not considered suitable. Due to the poor layout of the hotel, the surrounding area and the lack of getting back to us, the Holiday Inn Palo Verde/Airport was not considered suitable. That left Loews in southern Arizona.
- While the committee realizes that moving to southern Arizona will automatically increase costs for the conference, we had many reasons why we found this choice acceptable:
 - As stated earlier, we feel it is imperative to return to the process of moving the conference around the state to make it more fair to people no matter where they live.
 - The increased space available at Loews would allow us to bring in many more vendors which would help to cover any change in costs.
 - We would verify with Loews that food costs would still be covered by the same attendee registration fees as last year so that we would not lose any money.
 - There are hotels nearby that we could work with to meet the state per diem rates (Loews meets the Federal rates).

After discussing hotel choices for 2008, there was a short review of the conference task list. It was decided that committee members would review the task list before the next conference meeting and email Shea to tell her what groups they wanted to be a part of. The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 PM.